

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 10, 2006, made final by the Examiner. Claims 10-16, 18-19 and 29 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, claims 10 and 29 have been amended. Claims 1-9 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-16 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,759,863 to Moore (hereinafter Moore) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,976,234 to Kasapil (hereinafter Kasapil).

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. However, to further prosecution of the case, the Applicants elect to take the allowable subject matter. The Examiner stated that claims 17 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice and the subject matter thereof added to claim 10. Claim 10 and any claims dependent therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the stated reasons. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Moore in view of Kasapil and further in view of U.S. patent No. 6,686,760 to Hirt (hereinafter Hirt).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection for at least the previously stated reasons. Claims 5 and 13 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Moore in view of Kasapil and Hirt and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0047722 to Cook et al. (hereinafter Cook).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection for at least the reasons as set forth above. Claims 6 and 14 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

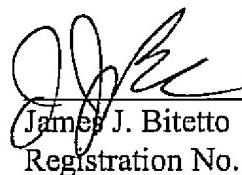
The Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 17 and 29 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's IBM Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



James J. Bitetto
Registration No. 40,513

Mailing Address:

KEUSEY, TUTUNJIAN & BITETTO, P.C.
20 Crossways Park North, Suite 210
Woodbury, NY 11797
Tel: (516) 496-3868
Fax: (516) 496-3869